

Reconsideration
10/771,599

5000-1-516

REMARKS

Reconsideration of all grounds of rejection in the Office Action and allowance of all of the pending claims are respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-15 are pending and stand rejected. Claims 1, 8, 9 and 11 are independent claims.

Claims 1, 8, 9 and 11 have been amended.

Claims 1-11 stands rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's PRIOR ART, FIG. 2 in view of Ota (US 5,282,257).

In maintaining the rejection of the claims 1-11, the instant Office Action asserts that it would be obvious from the teaching of the PRIOR ART and Ota that one PNC would be in charge of time allocation in pico-nets that communicate with each other in order to avoid collisions. (see page 2).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with and explicitly traverses the reason for rejecting the claims. However, the independent claims have been amended to recite that a PNC is selected to allocate and manage timeslots for all other devices by logically integrating the plurality of pico-nets as a single pico-net. Support for the amendment may be found at least on page 12, lines 1-2.

The specification in describing Figure 2, teaches that the central device 20 must include a MAC bridge function for switching and transmitting data from a source pico-net to a destination pico-net. (see page 8, lines 14-16). Hence, the central device uses a MAC address to address each of the pico-nets.

Ota discloses a star coupler that provides an output on two channels when an input signal is provided to a third channel. Ota fails to provide any teaching regarding the control of information provided to the disclosed star coupler.

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Neither the Prior Art (Figure 2) nor Ota, provides for logically integrating the plurality of pico-nets as a single pico-net to enable a selected PNC of one pico-net to allocate and manage timeslots for all of the devices located in a plurality of pico-nets.

A claim is not obvious over one or more references if the references, alone or in combination, fail to teach all feature recited in the claim.

The combination of Applicant's Prior Art and Ota, fails to render obvious the subject matter recited in the independent claims because the combination of the references fails to set forth or teach all the steps of independent claims.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claim discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 12-15 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's PRIOR ART figure 2 in view of Ota (USP no. 5,282,257) as applied to claims 1-11 and further in view of Lim (USPPA 2005/0026569).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with and explicitly traverses the reason for rejecting the claims.

Claims 1-11 have been shown to not be rendered obvious because the combination of PRIOR ART and Ota fail to recite a material element recited in the independent claims. Hence, claims 12-15, which depend from claims 1-11, are also not obvious because Lim fails to provide any teaching to correct the deficiency found to exist in the PRIOR ART and Ota. Moreover, Lim was commonly assigned to the same assignee at the time of filing of the present application.

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Thus, Lim disqualifies as a prior art under USC §103(a)/

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the present claims are patentable in view of the cited reference. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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